

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103**

The Applicant contests the Examiner's assertion that the present invention would have been obvious to the skilled person from the combined teachings of Silverbrook and Hirayama.

Claim 1 explicitly specifies that the printhead maintenance means is part of a *replaceable* printer cartridge. Further, claim 1 explicitly specifies that drive means for the printhead maintenance means is part of a cradle, in which the printer cartridge is received.

At the heart of the Applicant's invention is the printhead maintenance means being part of a replaceable printer cartridge. Hence, the maintenance means is replaced with each replacement printer cartridge. Printhead maintenance inevitably involves deposition of ink onto a cleaning device. The efficacy of this cleaning device diminishes over time as it gets more and more clogged with ink. The present invention provides a solution to this problem of decreasing efficacy of printhead maintenance means.

Typically, printers have replaceable ink cartridges. Some printers have printheads built into the replaceable ink cartridge so that the ink and printhead are replaced together. However, no printers in the prior art have a printhead maintenance means as part of a *replaceable* printer cartridge.

Hirayama describes a typical printer having a replaceable ink tank 'IT' mounted on a carriage. Hirayama also describes printhead maintenance means in the form of a cap member 5022, a suction device 5015 and a cleaning blade 5017. A lever, cam and motor arrangement is used as a drive means for driving the cleaning blade.

However, in Hirayama (and all prior art printers), the printhead maintenance means and the drive means therefor are all part of the printer cradle. The carriage, on which the ink cartridge and printhead are mounted, docks at the maintenance station when printhead maintenance is required. However, none of the printhead maintenance components are part of the replaceable ink cartridge, as required by the present invention.

Likewise, Silverbrook does not suggest having a printhead maintenance means as part of a replaceable printer cartridge.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant maintains that the present invention is neither taught nor suggested by any of the prior art. In particular, Hirayama merely teaches a conventional inkjet printer in which the printhead maintenance means and drive means therefor are both fixedly mounted in the printer cradle.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



---

Kia Silverbrook

C/o:

Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd  
393 Darling Street  
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email:

kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone:

+612 9818 6633

Facsimile:

+61 2 9555 7762